

hearings jointly. However, where there is no common issue of law or fact involved in two or more hearings and any party objects to a joint hearing, a joint hearing may not be held. Where joint hearings are held, a single record of the proceedings shall be made and the evidence introduced in one case may be considered as introduced in the others, and a separate or joint decision shall be made, as appropriate.

[37 FR 20652, Sept. 30, 1972]

§ 410.646 Consolidated issues.

When one or more additional issues are raised by the Administrative Law Judge pursuant to § 410.637, such issues may, in the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge, be consolidated for hearing and decision with other issues pending before him upon the same request for a hearing, whether or not the same or substantially similar evidence is relevant and material to the matters in issue. A single decision may be made upon all such issues.

§ 410.647 Waiver of right to appear and present evidence.

(a) *General.* Any party to a hearing shall have the right to appear before the Administrative Law Judge (formerly called "hearing examiner"), personally or by representative, and present evidence and contentions. If all parties are unwilling, unable, or waive their right to appear before the Administrative Law Judge, personally or by representative, it shall not be necessary for the Administrative Law Judge to conduct an oral hearing as provided in §§ 410.636 to 410.646, inclusive. A waiver of the right to appear and present evidence and allegations as to facts and law shall be made in writing and filed with the Administrative Law Judge. Such waiver may be withdrawn by a party at any time prior to the mailing of notice of the decision in the case. Even though all of the parties have filed a waiver of the right to appear and present evidence and contentions at a hearing before the Administrative Law Judge, the Administrative Law Judge may, nevertheless, give notice of a time and place and conduct a hearing as provided in §§ 410.636 to 410.646, inclusive, if he believes that the personal appearance and testimony of

the party or parties would assist him to ascertain the facts in issue in the case.

(b) *Record as basis for decision.* Where all of the parties have waived their right to appear in person or through a representative and the Administrative Law Judge does not schedule an oral hearing, the decision shall be based on the record. Where a party residing outside the United States at a place not readily accessible to the United States does not indicate that he wishes to appear in person or through a representative before an Administrative Law Judge, and there are no other parties to the hearing who wish to appear, the Administrative Law Judge may decide the case on the record. In any case where the decision is to be based on the record, the Administrative Law Judge shall make a record of the relevant written evidence, including applications, written statements, certificates, affidavits, reports, and other documents which were considered in connection with the initial determination and reconsideration, and whatever additional relevant and material evidence the party or parties may present in writing for consideration by the Administrative Law Judge. Such documents shall be considered as all of the evidence in the case.

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§ 410.648 Dismissal of request for hearing; by application of party.

With the approval of the Administrative Law Judge at any time prior to the mailing of notice of the decision, a request for a hearing may be withdrawn or dismissed upon the application of the party or parties filing the request for such hearing. A party may request a dismissal by filing a written notice of such request with the Administrative Law Judge or orally stating such request at the hearing.

§ 410.649 Dismissal by abandonment of party.

With the approval of the Administrative Law Judge, a request for hearing may also be dismissed upon its abandonment by the party or parties who filed it. A party shall be deemed to have abandoned a request for hearing if